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USSR WORK ON THE SO-CALLED ATYPICAL FORM OF TICK ENCEPHALITIS

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[Comment: The following report is based on a paper published in Zhurnal Mikrobiologii, Epidemiologii, i Immunobiologii, No 5, 1953, pp 41-46, and abstracted in Referativnyy Zhurnal Biologii, No 2, 1954, pp 76-77, Abstract RZhBiol No 382. The paper was a contribution from the Military Medical Academy imeni S. M. Kirov. The first of the two articles to which reference is made in the text of the report (see Bibliography) was published as a contribution from the Division of Virology, Institute of Experimental Medicine, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. The second of the articles referred to below is a joint contribution from the Division of Virology and an antitularemia (Tularemia) station which is not identified further.

Numbers in parentheses refer to authors' bibliography.]

The findings by A. A. Smorodintsev [head of the Division of Virology, Institute of Experimental Medicine, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR] and S. N. Davidenkov [Active Member, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR] to the effect that there is a considerable difference, as far as epidemiological and clinical data are concerned, between two-wave virus meningoencephalitis (formerly called the atypical form of tick encephalitis) and tick encephalitis (1, 2) are confirmed by the results of our investigations. However, there is no connection, either direct or indirect, between the transmission of two-wave meningoencephalitis and Ixodes ticks. It is probable that infection with this disease takes place by the alimentary route.

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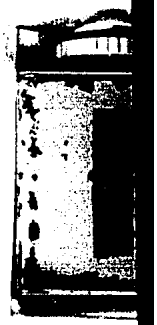

Although the possibility that two-wave meningoencephalitis may be caused by the consumption of raw goat milk cannot be denied, it is doubtful that infection with tick encephalitis proceeds by the alimentary route. The fact that goats were found to be infested with ticks only to a slight degree in a locality where two-wave meningoencephalitis occurs constantly must be regarded as significant. One of the most typical clinical manifestations of two-wave meningoencephalitis is the syndrome of serous meningitis. Two-wave meningoencephalitis is clinically distinct from tick encephalitis, and there is no basis whatever for regarding it as an atypical form of the latter disease.

A considerable proportion of cases of the disease under discussion must be regarded as listerellosis. This conclusion was reached on the basis of the encountering of a high proportion (42-63 percent) of positive reactions of agglutination with listerellai cultures. From 11 to 33 percent of the control sera of patients from the rayon in question who had been subjected to surgical or non-surgical treatment gave positive agglutination reactions, while the proportion of positive reactions was 6-8.6 percent in tests carried out on patients from other rayons. The sera of persons recovered from the disease yielded a positive reaction of neutralization with the virus of tick encephalitis in 41 percent of the cases, while the sera of 63 healthy goats in the same rayon yielded 11 positive reactions and 28 doubtful ones.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. A. A. Smorodintsev, A. I. Drobyshevskaya, V. P. Gulamova, V. I. Il'yenko, L. V. Fedorchuk, "Etiology of the Neurovirus Infection Causing Two-Wave Virus Meningoencephalitis," Zhurnal Mikrobiologii, Epidemiologii, i Immunobiologii, No 5, 1953, pp 47-54

2. A. A. Smorodintsev, B. P. Alekseyev, V. P. Gulamova, A. I. Drobyshevskaya, V. I. Il'yenko, K. N. Klenov, A. A. Churilova, "The Epidemiological Characteristics of Two-Wave Virus Meningoencephalitis," Zhurnal Mikrobiologii, Epidemiologii, i Immunobiologii, No 5, 1953, pp 54-59

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